

We built a nation, strong and free.

An activity of "Grit: The power of passion and perseverance"

"Grit: The power of passion and perseverance" (page 20–21, *What's Up* July 2020) tells how passion and perseverance form the cornerstone of achievement. Read it carefully. It is with grit that Singapore was built. The activity below will help you remember, this National Day, what big problems Singapore had to overcome following independence.

Unscramble the letter in brackets to form words that present the grave problems Singapore faced at independence in 1965, and why some people said Singapore would not make it.	
a	NATURAL RESOURCES — We were a small country that lacked land and natural resources like (erbrub) _____, oil palm or minerals that we could export. We did not even have enough (rtawe) _____ for our people.
b	POPULATION — Growth was one of the (ghhtsei) _____ in the world and would have been hard to (asusnit) _____ given our poor circumstances.
c	ECONOMY — The economy was suffering because: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. trade with Indonesia, a major (gnatr di) _____ partner, was (pddseuesn) _____ because of the Indonesia-Malaysia Konfrontasi ii. the British armed forces which (odmleey p) _____ 10% of our population and contributed to 20% of the GDP were being (aiwthdwnr) _____ from Singapore iii. (irtgopn ex) _____ to Malaysia, our main trading partner became difficult because they imposed (sfrafti) _____ on Singapore-made goods to (rcpotet) _____ their own industries.
d	EMPLOYMENT — Unemployment was high at 14%. Large cohorts were leaving school each year to join the (roefowkcr) _____ and there just were not enough jobs to go around.
e	HOUSING — A severe (reashotg) _____ left most of the populace living in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions. This, together with the lack of potable water, led to frequent outbreaks of (aedsies s) _____ like cholera and (tpydoi h) _____. Singapore's urban district was then one of the most congested (musls) _____ in the world.
f	MULTIRACIALISM — The population of Singapore was made up of (astnigr m) _____ from several lands who were drawn here by opportunities to make a living. They did not share a (cmonom) _____ history or (ytdineit) _____ as a (onaitn) _____. This gave rise to racial (itnossne) _____.
g	DEFENCE — We did not yet have a (iitymlar) _____ to defend us from external (atsreth) _____.

*Despite these early challenges, with grit we built a nation, strong and free.
Our 2020 National Day theme — "Together: A stronger Singapore!" — reminds us
that we must continue in that spirit.*